

# SUFFERERS

In and about the

Town of Lewes,

In the County of

# SUSSEX,

Only for their Peaceable Meetings, and Exercise of their Consciences in the Worship of God; Chiefly carryed on Against them by *William Snares*, Priest, and Surrogat to the Court called, *Court Christian*; and *James Clark* Register to the same Court.

**U**Pon the 5th day of the 8th Moneth, 1675. *William Snares* Priest, accompanied with two other Priests, and one *Robert Smith* a Tayler went to a peaceable Meeting of the aforesaid People, the said *William Snares* and *Robert Smith* being the Informers, they took the Names of several that assembled, and went to *Henry Shudy* called a Justice, and swore against several persons for being at the said Meeting at the house of *Thomas Mosely*, which was utterly false, for it was not *T. Mosely's* house, and also against a Preacher, his Name unknown, for which *Thomas Mosely* was fined 20 l. and the Preacher 20 l. which Fine for the Preacher the Justice laid upon *Nicholas Beard* of *Rottenden*

10 l. and for himself 5 s. and 3 l. more upon *Thomas Mosely*, and upon *Mary Akehurst* Widdow 7 l. 5 s. and upon *Ambrose Galloway* for his Wife being there 5 s. and upon *Elizabeth Shuter* 5 s. and upon some other Persons five shillings apiece.

Upon the 10th day of the 8th moneth, 1675. *James Clark* seeing he could make such Profit to himself by being an Informer, he took up the Trade, with his Brother *William Smit* the Priest, who went to a Meeting of the aforesaid People, and brought with them *Ferdinando Bryant* and *John Delves* Constables of *Lewes*, who took several Persons Names, and went to *Richard Bridger* Justice, where the said *James Clark*, *William Smit* and *Walter Jones* gave Information of a Meeting in the House of *Mary Galloway* (mark, it was in the same House which Priest *Smit* swore but five dayes before to be the House of *Thomas Mosely*, and now swears it to be the House of *Mary Galloway*, although there was no alteration concerning the said House) for which *Tho. Mosely* was fined 9 l. 15 s. and *Ambrose Galloway* fined 9 l. 10 s. and for himself and Wife 15 s. and *Mary Akehurst* 25 s. and *Samuel Baker* 6 l. 13 s. 4 d. and *Steven Eager* 6 l. 13 s. 4 d. and several other Persons for being at the said Meeting were fined 5 s. apiece, which said fines *J. Clark* Informer levied himself, that he might the better feather his Nest, for 10 l. 5 s. demanded of *Amb. Galloway* of *Lewes* he took Goods to the value of 14 l. 15 s. and from *Thomas Mosely* for 9 l. 15 s. demanded, he took Goods to the value of 12 l. 6 s. 8 d. the 20 l. for the House imposed for the first Meeting being not then levied; and from *Mary Akehurst*, a Widdow, that hath five Children, for two fines, being both 8 l. 10 s. took Goods to the value of 16 l. 18 s. 10 d. and from *Elizabeth Shuter* Widdow he took two Looking-glasses for 5 s. demanded; from *Samuel Baker*, a Blacksmith at *Newhaven*, for 6 l. 18 s. 4 d. fine, was taken half a Tun of Iron which cost 7 l. odd money.

Upon the 17th day of the 8th Moneth, 1675. some of the aforesaid People being met together at the same House as aforesaid, in their usual manner in *Lewes*, came *James Clark*,  
*William*

*William Spat* and *William Purser* Informers, with the afore-  
 said Constables, and a Lieutenant, and an Ensigne; and two  
 Sarjeants belonging to the Militia, and also a great number of  
 rude People of the baset sort, who with great Violence dragg'd  
 them out of the Meeting-house. abusing many, drawing  
 them in the Streets, kicking, bruising and beating many, and  
 from some there was Blood drawn; and chiefly by the Hands  
 of *James Clark* aforesaid, whose Beast-like behaviour caused  
 many of the Spectators to cry Shame of him; this being  
 done, the aforesaid Informers went to *Nisal Rivers* Justice,  
 & gave Information against several that were there assembled;  
 and the said Justice imposed by his Warrant these Fines fol-  
 lowing; upon *John Songburst* for preaching 20 l. upon the  
 House 20 l. to be levied as followeth; upon *Ambrose*  
*Galloway* for the House 4 l. and for himself and other Per-  
 sons 2 l. 5 s. all being 6 l. 5 s. for the which *James Clark*  
 took Goods from the said *Ambrose* to the value of 8 l. 7 s.  
 it being chiefly Linnen Cloth, never measuring any, the said  
*Ambrose* not being at home when he thus rifled his Shop, but  
 afterwards got leave from the Man of the House where the  
 Goods were lodged, to measure so much as he shewed him,  
 the value of which is above expressed, never returning any  
 thing again. *Thomas Mosely* being fined 2 l. which *James*  
*Clark* demanded, with 3 l. more for a former Fine, the whole  
 being 5 l. he took Goods to the value of 12 l. 5 s. *John*  
*Ellis* being fined 4 l. the said *Clark* took Goods to the value  
 of 7 l. 8 s. *Thomas Bud*, a poor Shepherd, being fined 25 s.  
 the aforesaid *Clark* forced into his House, he being not at  
 home, and took away nine pieces of Pewter, ten Cheeses, a  
 Pottage-pot, a Skillat, a Frying-pan, a Bucket, with some  
 other things, his Bed very hardly escaping. he wanting the  
 Tick to carry away the Pillage in, but espying a Sack, took  
 that, and the Bed escaped his hands. From *Tho. Robason*, a Felt-  
 maker, being fined 20 s. the said *Clark* took eight Hats. *Mary*  
*Akehurst* fined 10 s. *Clark* took Goods to the value of 18 s.  
*Maskall Picknal* being fined 5 s. [mark] the said *Clark* with-  
 out any Officer with him (that he might the better cover his



Cruelty) took four Roles of Linnen Cloth, without measuring any, and refused to let them see it measured. *Steven Manard* and his Brother *Nicholas Manard* were fined 5 s. apiece, for the which was Goods taken to the value of 24 s. *Henry Geats* for a fine of 5 s. had taken from him a great Brass Kettle. *Richard* and *John Scrase* fined 50 s. apiece; *Edward Paine* 20 s. *Samuel Web* 20 s. *Thomas Banks* 20 s. these last Fines being not yet levied, and also several other Persons being fined, of which we can give no Account, because *Clark* doth refuse to let us have a Copy of the Warrant.

Upon the 24th day of the aforesaid 8th moneth, some of the aforesaid People being peaceably met together, came *J<sup>a</sup>. Clark*, *Will. S<sup>nat</sup>* and *William Purser* Informers, accompanied with the Constables and about twelve Soldiers in Arms with their Officer as aforesaid belonging to the Militia, without any Regard to their Sabbath-Day, they drew Friends out of the Meeting-house, abusing many with Blows and cruel punches, and set a Guard at the House door to keep them out; then the aforesaid *Clark* demanded of *Mary Galloway* a fine of 5 s. for the which he took seventeen new Deal Formes, that cost near 3 l. which Forms were not the Goods of *Mary Galloway*, and loaded away some of the Soldiers with these Forms, to carry them along the Town whither he did direct, and when many of the People and Constables were gone, the said *Clark* commanded one of the Soldiers to break open the Door of the House, that he might use his Will, there being none but two Maids in the House: thus did they continue for the space of four Weeks with Guards of Soldiers, to keep out the Meeting from their own House, in the Street, in the Winter Season: Also the said *Clark* did upon one of the First Dayes afore-mentioned, demand another Fine of 5 s. of *Mary Galloway*, for the which he took a new Settle and five Deal Boards, worth 20 s. which were not the Goods of *Mary Galloway*.

Upon Information given on Oath by *Thomas Levet* Priest, *Michael Harmer* Smith, and *George Shepherd* Taylor, Informers, on the 5th day of the 7th Moneth, 1676. to *Sackvil Graves*

*Graves*, called Justice; that several persons whom these Informers named, were at a Meeting, at the House of *William Yokehurst* in the parish of *Westfurle* near *Lewes* in *Suff. x.* upon the 23th day of the Moneth called *July*, for which the said Justice fined *Clement Lickell* for preaching at the said Meeting 40 l. and *William Yokehurst* for suffering the Meeting in his House 20 l. and he fined thirty one Persons, as being present hearers, some 10 s. and some 5 s. apiece; and to be levied as followeth, by reason of the poverty of some, as expressed in the Warrant, upon *Ambrose Galloway* 10 l. 10 s. and upon *Mary Akehurst* 10 l. upon *John Ellis* 10 l. upon *Thomas Weekes* 9 l. 10 s. and on *John Abrook* 9 l. 10 s. and on *John Longly* 8 l. 10 s. and upon *William Yokehurst* 50 s. and upon *Maskall Picknell* 5 l. and upon *Samuel Baker* 45 s. and upon *Richard Hudson* 5 s. and for the poverty of Ten other Persons 5 s. apiece all to be levied upon *Richard Hudson*, the whole fine being 2 l. 15 s. for which fine the Constable and some other Officers took from *Richard Hudson* a Cow and Calfe worth 4 l. 5 s. *Richard Hudson* knowing that the aforesaid informers had sworn falsely, and several persons that were laid upon him were not there, brought his appeal and prosecuted it at the Sessions, where, and before the Court, it did appear that these Informers had sworn falsely, four persons in the number of Ten, for the which *Richard Hudson* had 20 s. returned him back again by the Sheriff for the four persons they had sworn falsely against, One of the four they swore to be present at the Meeting, was dead six Years before. The aforesaid Appeal being tryed before seven Justices of the Peace in open Court, yet never a one did give any Reproof to these false Informers for these their false Oaths.

For a Meeting at *Lewes* the 12th day of the 7th moneth, 1766. several of the aforesaid People were fined by *William Spence* Justice, upon the Information of *Walter Jones* and *William Parker* Informers, for two Preachers 40 l. and for several Persons as Hearers, 5 s. apiece, to be levied as followeth, Upon *Ambrose Galloway* 10 l. 5 s. upon *John Ellis* 10 l. 5 s. upon *Thomas Mosely* 10 l. 5 s. and upon *Henry Scrase* 10 l. 5 s. and upon some other Persons 5 s. apiece. 50

So that the total of the Fines that have been imposed upon the aforesaid People for their peaceable Meetings in the Worship of God, from the 5th day of the 8th moneth, 1675. to the 12th day of the 7th moneth, 1676. doth amount to 252 l. 15 s. besides the Unreasonable Havoek the aforesaid Clark hath made upon Goods, as before related.

The 29th of the 9th Moneth, 1676. *Edward Howel* of *Willington* Constable, accompanied with *Richard Whiting*, *Samuel Adunger*, *John Bit* and *Robert Garet* of *Westfurl*, did take a Mare worth 8 l. out of the Stable of *Maskal Picknel* of *Willington* for a Fine of 5 l. 15 s. imposed on the said *Maskal* for being at a Meeting at *Westfurl*, the 23d of the 5th Moneth 1676. by *Sackvil Graves* called Justice; 20 s. of the said Fine being imposed on him for two others, to wit, *Thomas Banks* and *Sibble Pain* of *Bishopton*, although the said *Sibble Pain* was not at the Meeting.

Upon the 26th Day of the 10th Moneth, 1676. *George Ty* and *Thomas Turle* Constables of the Town of *Lewes*, and *James Clark* Overleer for the poor, and *Edward Strudwick* Steeplehouse Warden, came with a Warrant given forth by *William Spence* Justice, upon an Information of *Walter Jones* and *William Purser* Informers, that *Ambrose Galloway* was at a Meeting or Conventicle in *Lewes*, where were two Preachers, their Names unknown, therefore the said Justice did impose upon *Ambrose Galloway* for the Preacher, 10 l. and for himself, 5 s. Upon the Day aforesaid, the Officers aforesaid came into the Shop that had been the Shop of *Ambrose Galloway*, but then in the Tenure and Occupation of *Ambrose Galloway* the Son of *Ambrose Galloway*, who was not at the Meeting, as charged; for the which Fine the Officers broke open the Counter and a Press in the Shop of the said *Ambrose*, and took away Mens Coats and Breeches, and Childrens Coats, and other Goods to the Value of 20 l. 5 s. 11 d. the said *Ambrose* being by Trade a Salesman.

The Witnesses Names that saw *Thomas Mosely's* first Parcel of Goods distrained, which was done the 28th of the 8th Mon. 75. are, *George Shelton* and *Thomas Walliar*.

The



The Names of those which saw the second Parcel distrained from *Thomas Mosely*, which was done the 1st of the 2d moneth, 76. are,

*Mary Ford, Benjamin Mosely and Mary Galloway.*

About the 9th Moneth, 75. *Ambrose Galloway* of *Lewes* was cited to the Bishops Court, held in *Lewes*, to appear three dayes after citation; *Amb. Galloway* did appear accordingly at the Time and Place, and there was no Court held that day; sometime after this Court decreed Excommunication against the said *Ambrose*, never sending him any other, whereby he might certainly know when there was a Court kept, that he might make his just Defence, but forth-with denounceth him Excommunicated, and about the 26th day of the 9th moneth, 76. the aforefaid Bishop sendeth forth a *Capiendo* to carry the said *Ambrose Galloway* to Prison for a Contempt.

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**T**Hese things are printed to let our Neighbours and Country men see how we have our Houses and Shops plundered, and our Goods torn from us by the Hands of malicious Informers who serve themselves upon our Goods; and colour it over with a Pretence of Law; so that they have taken (as you may see before expressed) double and treble, and sometimes six or seven times the value of the Fines imposed: And for evidence that a fine is imposed, some of us have nothing but the Word of an Informer to prove it is so, they Refusing to let us see the Warrant, or let us have a Copy of it, leavying the fines (they say were imposed) sometimes six moneths, or eight moneths after Conviction, if there were any such Conviction as they pretend; these Informers knowing the late Act allows of no Appeal except the sum charged, exceed ten Shillings; so that thereby they take advantage to swear against many Persons that were not at these Meetings, knowing that this late Act yields us no Relief in such a case; so that they take Goods what they please, and to what value they please, and sell it for what they please; And keep what they please for themselves; and say, they can take more when they

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they please: making no Appraisalment or giving any Account to Justices, Court or Country, so that we know not when this Law is satisfied. So we leave our Cause to all Judicious Men to judge, Whether the free-born Subjects of this Nation ought to be thus spoyled or destroyed in their Goods and Estates, and not to know when they are convicted, nor wherefore, but as we receive it from the mouths of our Executioners. Thus are they that depart from Evil made a prey upon, &c. *Isaiah 59. 15.* But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their Strength, &c. *Isaiah 40. 31.*

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THE END.

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